



Policy: Seed Exchange and Distribution	Policy Type: Departmental
Approval Date: 1/31/22 Date Revised: Effective Date: 2/1/22	Responsible Official: Language and Culture Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

**PURPOSE:**

- Establishes the process for Gun Lake Tribe to exchange and distribute seeds from its Collections;
- Establishes the process and requirements for the Language and Culture Department to decide what seeds to make available for exchange and distribution;
- Ensures the survival and enrichment of the rare and culturally unique seeds stewarded by the Gun Lake Tribe;
- Prevents the commercial use of any seeds;
- Promotes community involvement with food sovereignty programs; and
- Gives Gun Lake Tribal Citizens (“Citizens”) access to seeds the Language and Culture Department has evaluated by this policy’s procedures to make available for distribution.

**I. POLICY**

The Tribal Historic Preservation Office in partnership with the Language and Culture Department shall maintain strict records for the Tribe’s heirloom seed collection. The Language and Culture Department shall assist the Tribal Historic Preservation Office with the accessioning and de-accessioning of identified seeds from the Tribe’s Collections for planting purposes on an annually predetermined schedule. The Language and Culture Department shall also maintain all records for the exchanges of any of those seeds for planting purposes. All records must be reviewed and updated before and after any planting of annual crops, any exchanges of seeds with other tribes or other entities, any gifting of seeds, and any distributions of seeds to Citizens.

The Language and Culture Department in partnership with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office will assess the Gun Lake Tribe seed collection to determine which seeds will be made available for exchange and distribution.

No recipient of seeds may use them for any commercial use.

Citizens will be required to complete an application to obtain the seeds identified for distribution. Citizens will be required to give feedback on the experiences they had growing and harvesting. Donations of seeds grown by Citizens who experienced successful harvests with seeds distributed from Gun Lake Tribe will be evaluated for viability and accessioned into the Tribe’s Collections (i.e., “2022 Citizen Harvest Collection”), but it is not requirement for the distribution program.

This policy applies to all entities the Gun Lake Tribe conducts seed exchange and distribution with.

## II. AUTHORITY

- A. The Language and Culture Director and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer shall ensure procedures for the implementation of this policy are developed and enforced.
- B. The Mno Mijem Food Sovereignty Coordinator and Language and Culture Director are the responsible parties to ratify decisions in consultation with the Archives/Collections Coordinator to determine what seeds will be made available for exchange and distribution on an annually predetermined schedule.

## III. ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION PROCEDURE

- A. Eligibility
  - i. Gun Lake Tribal Citizen
  - ii. Max of two (2) citizen applicants per household
  - iii. Max of ten (10) seeds per variety for each applicant (e.g., as in 2022 applicants will only receive 10 Potawatomi Pole Beans, 10 Nokomis Kosmin Squash, and 10 Walpole Island White Flour Corn)
- B. The Mno Mijem Food Sovereignty Coordinator and Language and Culture Director in consultation with the Archives/Collections Coordinator will assess the current seed accessions before the planting of annual gardening projects to determine which seeds will be planted on Tribal properties that year and which seeds will be made available for exchange and distribution.
- C. Seeds selected for exchange and distribution will be required to have a certain amount remain in the Collections, as determined by the internal Storage and Care of Heritage Seeds SOP.
- D. Any Citizen applying to receive the selected seeds as part of the Gun Lake Tribe annual seed distribution will be required to fill out an application stating the seeds they wish to receive, their intentions for the seeds, and the methods of cultivation they will use to grow the plants.
- E. All Citizens who receive seeds will be required to fill out a questionnaire to provide feedback on their cultivation and harvest experience.
- F. Any seed(s) accessioned or de-accessioned from the Tribe's Collections will be documented following the processes outlined in the Tribe's Collections Management Policy. Once the seeds are transferred to the Language and Culture Department's control, the seeds planted on Tribal properties, exchanged, and distributed to Citizens will be recorded on the Seed Access and Harvest Log, including documenting the reason(s). NO Seeds may be removed for personal reasons and must correspond to a departmental purpose. (e.g., to plant/grow seedlings for community harvest 2020.)

- G. Any seed(s) de-accessioned from the Tribe’s Collections must also include their weight to be documented for inventory purposes according to the processes outlined in the Tribe’s Collection Management Policy.
- H. During the growing season, the Language and Culture Department will maintain the Seed Access and Harvest Log. The Log will identify the total amount received from the Department and Citizens’ harvests along with the total amounts of viable seeds identified to be accessioned into the Tribe’s Collections (i.e., “2022 Citizen Harvest Collection”) according to the Tribe’s Collection Management Policy.
  - i. The Language and Culture’s Mno Mijem Program will reserve, at minimum, 10% of their harvest and/or up to 250 seeds that will be accessioned as part of the “2022 Citizen Harvest Collection.”
- I. Any seed(s) accessioned into the Tribe’s Collections must be weighed and documented for inventory purposes following the processes outlined in the Tribe’s Collection Management Policy.
- J. No seed(s) are to be removed from Tribe’s Collections nor stored in the Collections unless the appropriate documentation is completed according to the processes outlined in the Collection Management Policy.
- K. Only the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and the Archives/Collections Coordinator may make entries to the seed collection records and catalog, with concurrence from the Language and Culture Director or the Mno Mijem Food Sovereignty Coordinator, no other persons are authorized to alter the seed collection records and catalog.

IV. SPECIAL REQUESTS PROCEDURE (reserved)

V. SEED TRADING PROCEDURE (reserved)